



Free ACT Test Prep Resources for Students, Educators, and Families

October 2013

The Montana Office of Public Instruction, in collaboration with ACT, offers the following free ACT preparation resources for Students, Families, and Educators. From sample tests and writing tips to iPhone apps and FAQs, the following three documents contain descriptions and links to many resources that will help juniors in high school prepare for the ACT Plus Writing test at no cost. Thanks to a seven-year grant awarded to Montana GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), eleventh-graders in Montana public schools will have the opportunity to take the ACT Plus Writing test in their high schools on April 23, 2014 at no charge.

Since all colleges and universities in the United States, as well as the NCAA, accept ACT scores as part of their admissions process, we encourage you to utilize the resources on the following pages to prepare for this test.

If you have questions, please contact:

Judy Snow

State Assessment Director

Montana Office of Public Instruction

(406) 444-3656 or jsnow@mt.gov



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

Free ACT Prep: Student Resources

Preparing for the ACT:

Full-Length Practice Tests, including:

- A writing test
- Information about the optional writing test
- Strategies to prepare for the test
- What to expect on test day

<http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>

Facebook:

Like 'The ACT Test' and ask questions about preparation and follow discussions.

www.facebook.com/theacttest?sk=wall&v=wall

ACT Student App for iPhone and iPod touch:

Using the "Practice" feature, students can attempt answers to practice items and gain feedback from their attempts. <http://www.act.org/mobileapps/actstudent/>

ACT Question of the Day:

One question a day from the English, Math, Reading, or Science components of past ACT tests.

<http://www.actstudent.org/qotd/>

Writing Test FAQs:

Commonly asked questions about the ACT writing test.

<http://www.actstudent.org/writing/faq.html>

Tips for the ACT Writing Test:

Learn how to pace yourself, as well as prewrite, write, and review your essay.

<http://www.actstudent.org/writing/writing-tips.html>

Essay Scoring Guidelines:

Here you will find the descriptions of scoring criteria that trained readers will follow to determine the score (1–6) for your essay. <http://www.actstudent.org/writing/scores/guidelines.html>

Sample Essays with Scores

Here you will find a sample essay for each scoring level, along with an explanation of the score given. <http://www.actstudent.org/writing/sample/index.html>



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Free ACT Prep: Family Resources

Please note that a number of Student and Educator Resources are also useful to families

Family Firsts: Your Support Will Make a Difference

This resource provides information for parents who have a child who will be the first in their family to go to college.

<http://www.act.org/path/secondary/pdf/FamilyFirstsParents.pdf>

There is also a version in Spanish:

<http://www.act.org/path/secondary/pdf/FamilyFirstsParentsSpanish.pdf>

Get Set for College

A guide for parents to help prepare for the opportunities and challenges ahead and make planning for college a little easier.

<http://www.act.org/path/secondary/pdf/GetSetforCollegeParent.pdf>



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Free ACT Prep: Educator Resources

Please note that a number of Student Resources are also useful to educators

2013-2014 User Handbook for the ACT

There are four sections in the User Handbook:

1. Components of the ACT
2. ACT Reports and Data Services
3. Using ACT Student Data
4. Taking the ACT
5. <http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/ACT-UserHandbook.pdf>

Educator's Guide to the ACT Writing Test

This guide is organized into four parts:

1. Overview of the ACT Writing Test
2. Scoring the ACT Writing Test
3. Using Results from the ACT Writing Test
4. Teaching Persuasive Writing Through an Integrated Arts Curriculum

http://www.act.org/aap/writing/pdf/educator_guide.pdf

ACT College Readiness Standards

ACT College Readiness Standards relate test scores to the types of skills needed for success and serve as a direct link between what students have learned and what they are ready to learn next. There are College Readiness Standards for English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing.

Scroll down to the bottom of the screen for 'Ideas for Progress.' The 'Ideas for Progress' will aid educators in planning activities that will help students improve skills as they pertain to the College Readiness Standards for each subject.

<http://www.act.org/standard/index.html>

Abbreviated Test Booklet

This booklet provides sample test questions from each of the four content areas measured by the multiple choice tests on the ACT.

http://www.act.org/standard/instruct/pdf/ACT_AbbreviatedTestBooklet.pdf